T2146-906833-US3830/BC(PCT)

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed to insert headings to conform the application to U.S. practice and to correct informalities in the specification, claims and abstract resulting from a literal translation of the French text.

Early action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MILES & STOCKBRIDGE P.C.

Date: February 28, 2001

Edward J. Kondracki

Registration No. 20,604

1751 Pinnacle Drive - Suite 500

McLean, VA 22102-3833

Tel.: 703/903-9000 Fax: 703/610-8686